

**REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600**

Practitioner's Docket No. 2032

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Charles W. Norman

Confirmation No.: 6307

Application No.: 10/686,372

Group No.: 2613

Filed: 10/15/2003

Examiner: Dzung D. Tran

For: HYBRID OPTICAL RING-MESH PROTECTION IN A COMMUNICATION
SYSTEM

Mail Stop: AF

Commissioner for Patents

P. O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE

In response to the final Office action of March 23, 2007, please consider the following remarks. As this response is being submitted within two months of the date of the final Office action, the applicant respectfully contends that the extension of time policy set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) and MPEP § 714.13 pertaining to responses to final rejections applies to this response.